

# MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Office of Health Equity



**HEALTHY & EQUITABLE** *California* **FOR ALL**

Addressing health impacts  
of where Californians live,  
work, and play.

**#HealthEquityCA**

# UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

## Community Development and Engagement Unit (CDEU)

### Mission

The Office of Health Equity (OHE), Community Development and Engagement Unit's (CDEU) mission is to strengthen the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) focus and ability to advise and assist other state departments in their mission to increase access to, and the quality of, culturally and linguistically competent mental health care and services.

### Vision

To create a public mental health system for a diverse California that advances an authentic commitment to community engagement, cultural knowledge, accessibility, quality, resilience, and wellness.

### Projects

#### *California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP)*

In response to former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher's call for national action to reduce mental health disparities, the former Department of Mental Health (DMH), along with several key partners, created a statewide policy initiative to identify solutions for historically unserved, underserved, and inappropriately served communities. Under OHE, this statewide Prevention and Early Intervention effort, the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP), focuses on five populations:

- African American
- Asian and Pacific Islander
- Latino
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning
- Native American

Now in Phase II, the CRDP will focus on funding and evaluating the promising practices identified in Phase I, as well as advancing the strategies outlined in the CRDP Strategic Plan. In all CRDP will award \$60 million to 41 contractors and grantees over six years. The CRDP is funded by the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63) that was passed in November 2004. This act imposes a one percent income tax on personal income in excess of \$1 million.

## Health Equity Policy & Planning Unit (HEPPU)

### Vision

Our vision is a healthy, equitable, and environmentally sustainable California where all people thrive and health equity principles are the foundation of government policies and practices.

### Mission

The Health Equity Policy & Planning Unit's mission is to provide statewide leadership in policy, systems, and environmental change by improving health, equity, and environmental sustainability in California government decision-making, practices, and policies.

OHE's HEPPU addresses complex issues that require input and collaboration across multiple agencies and departments, most of which are outside of the health sector.

### Projects

#### *The California Health in All Policies Task Force*

The California Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force was created by Executive Order S-04-10 in 2010 because the health and well-being of Californians is impacted by the policies and practices of many agencies and departments, not just health services and public health. The HiAP Task Force is housed under the SGC, and brings together 22 state agencies, departments, and offices, with a common goal of working together to support a healthier and more sustainable California. The HiAP Task Force is staffed by CDPH in partnership with the Public Health Institute.

#### *Climate Change and Health Equity Program (CCHEP)*

California is a national and international leader on climate change as a critical emerging issue. The Global Warming Solutions Act (AB32) has mobilized California's state agencies to develop a coordinated response to reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions. CDPH and other state agencies are conducting research and developing strategies to reduce carbon emissions (mitigation) and prepare for (or adapt to) the challenges brought by climate change. CCHEP works on policy, adaptation planning, land use and transportation planning, epidemiology, environmental health, health education and risk communication, emergency preparedness and other areas relating to climate change and health.

## Health Research and Statistics Unit (HRSU)

### Vision

HRSU's vision is to become the state's reference office that provides consultation and data resources to keep abreast of data trends, in an effort to mitigate and eliminate health and mental health disparities and inequities in California.

### Mission

HRSU is a leading state unit in collecting data and disseminating information about health and mental health disparities and inequities in California. HRSU researches and produces data to fulfill statutory mandated reports, and provides information and technical assistance to CDPH programs, state agencies, local health departments and stakeholders who are working to collect and report information on health and mental disparities and inequities in California.

HRSU advances health and mental health equity by:

- Providing consultation and technical assistance to state departments and other state and local agencies as well as private entities related to health disparities.
- Developing a report with demographic analyses on health and mental health disparities and inequities, updated periodically but not less than every two years, highlighting the underlying conditions that contribute to health and well-being, accompanied by a comprehensive, cross-sectoral strategic plan to eliminate health and mental health disparities.
- Transparency through making the data easily accessible to all Californians through different means such as biannual reports, issue briefs, and dissemination through a website in order to measure and track disparities among vulnerable population groups.

### Projects

The OHE published its first demographic report on 2015 as part of its [Portrait of Promise](#). This is the first State report that presents a comprehensive analysis of the status of the social determinants of health in California with evidence of the impacts that an inequitable distribution of resources has on health.

Since its creation OHE has also been producing and publishing statistical measures or indicators of the social determinants of health that provide ways to assess the current status of community health, equity, and vulnerability to climate change across the State. There are two indicator projects lead by HRSU:

- [Healthy Communities Data and Indicators Project \(HCI\)](#)

- [Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Indicators \(CHVI\)](#)

The HCI provides data to assess community health and equity following the framework “What is a Healthy Community?” from the California Health in All Policies Task Force. The first set of 31 indicators was released to the public between the years 2012-2015 on the [CDPH website](#) and on the [Open Data Portal](#) (search term HCI). The HCI project has engaged with internal partners and State agencies to vet indicator definitions and datasets. The data has been used by [Let’s Get Healthy California](#) and [external partners](#), and it is being used by epidemiologists for reporting and accreditation and by public health researchers.

The CHVI provides data and tools to local health departments and partners to better understand the people and places in their jurisdictions that are more susceptible to adverse health impacts associated with climate change, specifically extreme heat, wildfire, sea level rise, drought, and poor air quality. The assessment data can be used to screen and prioritize where to focus deeper analysis and plan for public health actions to increase resilience. The factors that make communities healthy also increase their resilience to climate change. The CHVI uses the [Building Resilience against Climate Effects](#) framework from the CDC.

The data in these projects helps OHE meet its legislative mandate and will from now on constitute the OHE demographic report. The data will be presented to the public on the [cdph.ca.gov](http://cdph.ca.gov) website. HRSU is currently updating datasets and developing interactive data visualizations using Tableau.

# UPDATES

## Human Resources

### Community Development and Engagement Unit (CDEU):

Interviews for the vacant HPS I (CRDP Native American Lead) position were held on December 6, 2017. Out of the 17 applications received, five candidates were interviewed. Andrea Zumbiate, Coordinator, Indian Health Programs with Department of Health Care Services, served as CDEU's Native American subject matter expert. Next steps include calling references and checking personnel files. A tentative offer will be made during the week of December 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Health Equity Policy and Planning Unit (HEPPU):

There are two long-term vacancies in the HEPP Unit: one for a Health Program Specialist I for Health in All Policies, and one for an AGPA for the Climate Change and Health Equity Program. Due to a hiring hold directed by CDPH leadership on OHE vacant positions, it is unknown at this time when HEPP will get approval to proceed with the advertising, recruitment and hiring for these two critical position. These two positions are fully funded categorical positions with full scopes of work.

### Health Research & Statistics Unit (HRSU):

After four years and five months of dedicated service in the Office of Health Equity, senior data scientist and former acting unit chief, Dr. Dulce Bustamante-Zamora (RS III) departed at the end of the month, for a position in the Program Evaluation Section of the Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health Branch. (See RS III vacancy, below.) Dr. Bustamante-Zamora made significant and lasting contributions to OHE's capacity to curate, summarize and disseminate data on social determinants of health and health disparities, leaves behind a legacy of strong collaborative efforts with numerous health equity partners.

RS III – HRSU has one vacancy, which will be back-filled at the earliest opportunity. A revised duty statement is under review by HRB, and a vacancy announcement will be made by mid-December.

RS II – HRSU has one vacancy, which will remain vacant to ensure OHE's GF budget is not overspent.

## Financial

- Included in a separate attachment.

## Decision Points

- Next steps for the draft CRDP Strategic Plan which involves the following:
  - Susan contacts department heads called to action in the plan to ensure accuracy of the information being reported. CDEU staff, Laura Leonelli has forwarded all e-mail communications to Susan to be sent to state department heads.
  - CDEU staff, Laura Leonelli, continues to draft the secretary action report with changes noted and other details to route to CDPH leadership/agency with the final CRDP draft Strategic Plan once department heads have weighed in.
- Jahmal and Susan to review and approve the CRDP pre-draft solicitation for the Education, Outreach & Awareness for public vetting.
- The CRDP Native American hub is requesting a meeting with CDPH leadership to discuss intellectual property and CDPHs' policy on Tribal Consultation. Marina to follow up with Susan.
- HEPP Unit is requesting a timeline from CDPH leadership on moving forward with hiring for the two backfill vacancies in the Unit. Not filling our existing vacant positions is exacerbating the long-term problem of HEPP being under-staffed and staff over-worked; removing the hiring freeze will help HEPP to meet the high level of requests from across the state and within the department. Launching the Racial and Health Equity Initiative this month has expanded our duties.
- Returned DAR on Parks and Greening Action Plan with responses to Director's office comments and edits. Waiting for approval to finalize.

## Activities

### OHE-wide

#### Advisory Committee and External Engagement

- Staff has been working with OHE Advisory Committee member Manel Kappagoda, senior staff attorney at ChangeLab Solutions, on finalizing an issue brief that examines the relationship between the treatment of immigrants and the impacts on public health. The issue brief has been approved by Agency for release to the public. The Advisory

Committee will recommend next steps, including endorsements and distribution at its December 14 meeting.

- At this upcoming meeting, Advisory Committee member Donnell Ewert will present on the health and mental health equity challenges facing the rural north. He is the director of the Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency and hosted OHE, along with three foundations, on a day-long visit on October 26. Highlights from that visit, including recommendations that surfaced during the afternoon stakeholder forum, will be discussed at the December 14 Advisory Committee meeting.
- Progress is being made on formalizing the relationship between OHE and the California Arts Council. An MOU was drafted and is currently under review by the Office of Legal Services. Advisory Committee Jo-Ann Julien represented OHE at a California Arts Council event on December 7, the Creative Forces Summit: San Diego Region.
- Staff attended the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's workshop in Oakland on December 7 Exploring Tax Policy to Advance Population Health, Health Equity, and Economic Prosperity. This event built knowledge and skills in this important area of influence while enabling creative thinking in collaboration with partners such as the Prevention Institute, the Public Health Institute, ChangeLab Solutions, and John Snow, Inc. Research and Training Institute.
- One of the action items to result from staff presenting at the CRDP 2nd Annual Meeting was a commitment to hold one or more think tanks on OHE's leadership in data collection, disaggregation and reporting for populations that are less visible in Portrait of Promise and other important initiatives. The first of these think tanks was held on December 8th and focused on LGBTQ data and sources. The recommendations and resources that arose will improve future OHE efforts and potentially shape the data landscape for wider initiatives.

#### **Trainings, Presentations and Workshops**

- No updates at this time

### **OHE Units**

#### **Community Development and Engagement Unit (CDEU)**

- CDEU staff finalized a plan with Assistant Director, Susan Fanelli, and Agency to reach out to state departments called to action in the draft CA Strategic Plan on Reducing Mental Health Disparities, to provide state department Director's with an opportunity to review recommendations pertaining to their agency. Additionally, CDEU staff has drafted a



Secretary Action Report and will soon be routing it for CDPH approval once the vetting process with the state departments is completed.

- CDEU staff recently shared a pre-draft solicitation for the final component of the CA Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) Phase II with Jahmal and Susan for a one-week review and approval. Once CDEU receives the green light on the pre-draft Education, Outreach and Awareness solicitation, the plan is to share it broadly with community stakeholders for vetting and feedback. The solicitation seeks to fund a contractor for a statewide mental health Education, Outreach and Awareness initiative, which is intended to implement components of the CRDP Strategic Plan, developed during Phase I of the CRDP.
- CDEU staff attended a convening organized by CRDP contractor, UC Davis, Center for Health Disparities in Oakland. The purpose of the gathering was to learn about community based participatory research and how the CDEU staff/CDPH can begin to incorporate this practice into state business processes.
- CRDP LGBTQ Lead continues to work with subject matter expert, Riki Wilchins on the possibility of a gender lens training proposal and presentation to CDPH staff for an upcoming OHE speaker series event.
- CDEU staff recently participated on a School Based Health Center workgroup whereby they discussed plans for a Needs Assessment and Key Informant Interviews. Further, they have requested his assistance in reviewing the National School Based Health Care Census and on the on assessment questions.
- OHE staff has been serving as the point person and support to the 35 CRDP Implementation Pilot Projects and the Statewide Evaluator who recently submitted their local evaluation and statewide evaluation plans respectively to the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects for review and approval. Based on staff experience thus far, this process has been tedious and challenging.
- Mental Health California (MHC), a CA-based 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization that informs and educates Californians on health, mental health, and mental-wellness recognized CDPH Director, Karen Smith with the “Cultural Outreach Award” for going above and beyond the call of duty for so many Californians, which is evident in the quality and quantity of multi-cultural outreach programs, specifically, the CA Reducing Disparities Project. The staff and Board of Directors at MHC, along with many statewide partners, stand in full recognition of the excellent work Dr. Smith, through the Office of Health Equity, has done to improve diversity in health and mental health over the years. The event titled, “California Champions of Mental Health Charity Awards Dinner

and Jazz Concert,” was held on November 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel here in Sacramento.

- Key CDEU staff have begun to meet on a weekly basis to review budget details and troubleshoot areas of concern to include over expenditures, inappropriate usage of PCA’s, encumbrances, projections, and expenditure rate. CDEU staff is finalizing the CDEU monthly expenditure report, which will provide a snapshot of the overall CDEU budget.

## **Health Equity Policy & Planning Unit (HEPPU)**

### **Cross-Unit Updates:**

- Working with CalEPA and Office of Planning and Research to expand tools used to designate “disadvantaged communities” that receive a minimum of 35% of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds, to include tools that define health disadvantage and climate vulnerability, and identifying pilot programs. (external)
- HEPP Unit Chief, CDPH Director, OHE Deputy Director, and HHS staff provided an interview on California’s approach to advance work on social determinants of health, including HiAP, for RWJF’s Better Health Beyond Health Care project. (external)
- HEPP Unit Chief, HiAP staff, and OHE Sr. Project Manager provided an interview for Minnesota law review article on Advancing Equity in State Government. (external)

### **Climate Change and Health Equity Program (CCHP):**

- Provided input to: 1) the Public Health Alliance of Southern California’s (PHASC) draft Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Indicators policy briefs and development of Healthy Places Index tool; 2) the Regional Asthma Management and Prevention program’s draft guidance on weatherization, energy efficiency, and health equity for health practitioners; 3) *Safeguarding California*, the climate adaptation plan for the State; 4) the [Office of Planning and Research’s Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program](http://opr.ca.gov/planning/icarp/) <http://opr.ca.gov/planning/icarp/> webpages on environmental justice and health equity; and 5) [OPR’s guidance for state agencies](http://opr.ca.gov/planning/icarp/resilient-ca.html) on improving equity and health while accounting for climate change in planning and investments, per EO B-30-15 (released to the public in November at <http://opr.ca.gov/planning/icarp/resilient-ca.html>.) (external).
- Provided technical assistance to: 1) PHASC regarding health equity policy focus areas for autonomous vehicles; 2) the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance regarding climate and health data; 3) Four Twenty Seven, Inc.’s indicators of social vulnerability for a heat warning tool; 4) Multnomah County Public Health on climate change and health equity policy; 5) the Planning Committee of the Autonomous Vehicle (AV) Policy Framework Summit (December 11-12th); and 6) the Planning Committee for

the International Transformational Resilience Coalition’s “Preparing People for Climate Change in California” Conference (January 24 and 25) (external).

- Presented at: 1) three presentations at the American Public Health Association annual meeting, on "Climate Resilience through Action on the Social Determinants of Health: Models from California and Other Health Departments", "Furthering Climate Justice and Health Equity through Public Health Collaborations in California", and "When Race is No Longer a Predictor of Health Outcomes: Addressing Institutional Racism to Reduce Vulnerability to Climate Change"; 2) UC Davis MPH course on “Climate Change: Public Health and Health Equity”; and 3) UC Davis Public Health Alumni Association on “Climate Change and Health: Global Change, Local Action”. (external).
- Outreach / education: The CalBRACE Project reinitiated a monthly Community of Practice call for Local Health Departments (LHDs) working on adaptation to climate change (internal and external).
- Represented CDPH at: 1) workshop on “Ensuring Environmental Justice Underlies Public Health’s Climate Change Work” at Spelman College, Atlanta; and 2) roundtable meeting for shaping APHA climate and health work at American Public Health Association meeting in Atlanta, and 3) Scoping Plan Transportation Sector Implementation multi-agency workgroup. (internal and external)
- Strategized with CDPH Budgets staff regarding the best mechanism to obtain more financial resources to meet the increasing demand for our work from other agencies.
- Received feedback from Agency on SAR for Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Reports. Staff are in process of addressing all comments. (internal)

#### **Health in All Policies initiative (HiAP):**

- Active Transportation Program: Partnered with CDPH ATSP, PHASC (and member LHDs), public health advocacy groups to participate in the California Transportation Commission (CTC) Active Transportation Program (ATP) Public Workshop series (Workshops: 11/29, 11/16, 11/09, 11/03, 10/26). In Cycles two and three, HiAP Staff working with stakeholders successfully advocated for a public health question to be added to the ATP grant application. When the current application was released this month, CTC staff had removed the Public Health question. HiAP staff have been working with CDPH ATSP staff and other partners to organize input and to advocate for reinserting the Public Health question. LHD overwhelmingly support the question, saying that local cities were reaching out to them for the first time ever to build new strategic relationships with planners. (internal and external)
- Caltrans Bike/Ped Research Roadmap: For the last year, HiAP staff participated on the Research Roadmap team, the guidance document for Caltrans in prioritizing and allocating their research dollars to support active transportation. The final Research

Roadmap is almost complete. HiAP staff circulated the document within CDPH and key partners to identify any gaps and research funding opportunities for CDPH to pursue. (internal and external)

- CDPH Racial and Health Equity Initiative: On November 14, HiAP/HEPP staff presented to PHEMT about the launch of the All Staff Equity Survey and Racial and Health Equity Workgroup recruitment. On November 29, HiAP staff, Dr. Smith, and Jahmal Miller provided the first of two webinars for Supervisors and Managers announcing the Survey and Workgroup recruitment. An extraordinary amount of time and work has gone into developing the survey and application, and suite of supporting materials including FAQs, Equity Definitions, SharePoint site, webinar materials, talking points for communications from Director's Office and more. Over 215 staff attended the webinars and received training credit. (internal)
- 2018 HiAP Task Force GARE Capitol Cohort Pilot: HiAP staff continued to work with the Center for Social Inclusion to develop the curriculum, recruitment plan, evaluation plan, and logistics for the GARE Capitol Cohort. Currently 10 departments (including CDPH) have expressed interest in participating. (external)
- Capital Fellows Program: On behalf of OHE, HiAP staff coordinated Capital Fellows Program application and interview process. We were not placed with a fellow. (internal)
- NEOPB Health Equity Summit: At the request of NEOPB colleagues, HiAP staff are actively participating in the planning work group for the 2018 Health Equity Summit, which will identify strategies to address health equity in the next LHDs work plans. (internal)
- HiAP staff provided technical assistance to the Contra Costa County Health Department on available resources, data, and indicators to support their upcoming Department Accreditation and County Health Improvement Plan. (external)
- Unit Chief and HiAP Director met with and provided resources to California Association of Family Physicians on using a HiAP approach for their prevention work. (external)

#### **Health Research and Statistics Unit (HRSU):**

- The outgoing RSIII (See Human Resources update) successfully transitioned her projects and resources to the unit chief and fellow research scientists, to ensure continuity and knowledge transfer.
- HRSU has developed new Tableau data visualizations and ESRI Story Maps of the Healthy Communities Indicators (HCI) for broader impact and accessibility. Visualizations for five updated indicators (educational attainment, access to parks, child fitness— a Let's Get Health California indicator, household overcrowding, modified retail food environment index—through a data-use agreement with the Nutrition Education and Obesity

Prevention Branch) were completed by the end of November and will be published on the CDPH website in early December.

- HRSU research scientists and partners in the Let's Get Healthy California data sub-team completed a pilot test phase of a methodology developed by the World Health Organization to measure and monitor health disparities using a user-friendly, online interface (Health Equity Assessment Toolkit). Initial results are promising, but further discussion is scheduled for December to determine which measures should be prioritized and could be implemented by OHE to quantify disparities.
- HRSU is preparing the final version of a Discrimination Issue Brief, for publication on the OHE website. The policy brief summarizes findings from the 2014 California Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (CA BRFSS) survey, based on questions submitted by HRSU related to discrimination experienced in the domains of employment, police interactions, education, housing, and financial lending. It also synthesizes existing policies and recommendations to prevent and ameliorate discrimination, including state level policies and interventions adopted by law enforcement. Also, a similar issue brief on mental health, also using CA BRFSS data, is in an early stage of development.
- HRSU submitted an application to the California State University Sacramento Executive Fellowship program but unfortunately did not find a match for a fellow in 2017/2018.

## Communications

No updates at this time.

## Legislation

No updates at this time.